

**This Report is devoted to summarizing data regarding members and endorsers of the John Birch Society.**

The first section concerns the number of JBS members.

The second section lists some of the more prominent members/endorsers of the Society

The third section is devoted to summarizing demographic information about JBS members.

The last section provides miscellaneous information about the JBS and Robert Welch.

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MY RESEARCH: <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie124102/home>

Numerous historians, political scientists, and journalists have written articles or books or academic theses which purport to present fact-based references to the number of John Birch Society members. Most of these reports just repeat unreliable media estimates or absurd self-promoting public comments by JBS officials or, estimates appearing in publications by groups such as the Anti-Defamation League.

Much of the information which appears below is based upon confidential internal documentary evidence by senior JBS officials along with financial statements prepared by the Birch Society's CPA firm (Spark, Mann and Company) as well as annual financial statements which the JBS was required to submit to the Division of Charities/Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

One of the most common JBS membership estimates was as follows:

***"During the Cold War era, the right-wing John Birch Society had more than 100,000 dues-paying members"***

**By contrast, here is what Robert Welch reported in personal correspondence with JBS National Council members or in minutes of JBS National Council meetings:**

### **1959**

02/59 = first JBS recruitment meeting (to 100 people) at Oakley Country Club in Watertown, Massachusetts resulted in 10 chapters formed.

06/59 = 20 chapters

## 1960

01/60 = 82 chapters and 1400 local chapter members plus 300 "Home Chapter" members  
[NOTE: By June 24, 1960, there had been a total of 25 two-day introductory recruitment meetings held around the country]

04/60 = 150 chapters and 2800 members

09/60 = 324 chapters and 5300 members

12/60 = In the 12/60 *JBS Bulletin*, Robert Welch stated that JBS membership was doubling every 4 months. If we apply that formula to the 5300 members reported by Welch in 09/60, then that would mean that circa January 1961, the JBS probably had about 10,600 members.

[NOTE: the 1960 JBS financial statement filed with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts stated that the JBS had received \$198,719 in dues income. If we use an \$18 average per member, that would calculate to about 11,039 members by the end of 12/60 -- which is exceptionally close to the 10,600 extrapolation mentioned above since men paid \$24 yr and women paid \$12 yr]

## 1962

In 1962 = the JBS reported on its annual financial statement that it received **\$296,326** in member dues income. That would calculate to about **16,462** members at an \$18 average.

[NOTE: A letter by JBS National Council member Tom Anderson to Verne Kaub dated 11/62 declared that there had been a "70% growth of JBS" between January and November 1962.

## 1964

12/31/64 = The Birch Society's CPA firm (Spark, Mann and Company) reported that the JBS received **\$536,566.35** in member dues. Using the \$18 average, that would calculate to about **29,809** members.

## 1965

A reporter asked Robert Welch about JBS membership numbers. Welch estimated the membership at **"60,000 to 100,000, and if you take a figure halfway between, you're probably right."** [*Washington Post*, 11/6/65, page B-2, Phil Casey: "**Welch Denies Birch Society Far Right, Declares It Keeps the People Informed.**"].

NOTE: Welch's "half-way" reference would be consistent with the next item from *Chicago Daily News* but 80,000 cannot be supported by dues payment information submitted annually by the JBS to Massachusetts.

## 1965

In an interview with Robert S. Boyd of the *Chicago Daily News*, Welch claimed that the Birch Society had 80,000 members in 5000 chapters. [Robert Boyd: "**\$5 Million Push in Birch Publicity—What It Buys**"; article reprinted in *San Francisco Chronicle*, 11/22/65, pages 1 and 8]

Note: the average JBS chapter was composed of 10 to 20 members. Also see next item which indicates that Welch was lying about JBS membership numbers.]

## 1966

The Birch Society's Eastern Regional Manager (Thomas J. Davis) told the *Houston TX Chronicle* that the JBS "**has doubled its membership in the past two years to about 100,000...**" [*Houston TX Chronicle*, 8/8/66, "**Birch Society Membership Gains Claimed**"; FBI-Houston 62-1521, serial #125]

## **1967**

The 12/31/67 report made by the Birch Society's CPA firm (Spark, Mann and Company), stated that the JBS received **\$633,667.18** in member dues that year (the highest dues amount ever reported up to that time). Using an \$18 average, that would calculate to about **35,204 members**. Total income which the Society reported that year was \$4,258,000.

**The 35,204 estimate also seems to conform to the following information:**

The former Controller of the JBS (Thomas J. Davis) told a newspaper reporter in 1967 **"that the JBS had a membership of around 30,000 nationally, well below Robert Welch's estimates of between 65,000 and 80,000, with the bulk of the members concentrated in southern California, Texas and the southern gulf states."** [Milwaukee WI Journal, 5/15/68, page C-12, **"Do Birch Society Dropouts Point to Decline?"** ]

## **1968**

In a 1968 JBS publication entitled "Why Support the John Birch Society"? Robert Welch stated **"In fact, we have not yet climbed out of the 60,000-100,000 bracket which we have publicly acknowledged for about 2 years."**

## **1971**

The JBS CPA firm (Spark, Mann and Company) reported in its **12/31/71** financial statement that the JBS received **\$950,500.06** in member dues. Using an \$18 average, that would calculate to about **52,805 JBS members** (**which I suspect may have been their high point -- during the time when so many Birchers were energized by the George Wallace campaign for President.**)

BTW, in a 1971 JBS publication, [**"It's Time to Come Home"**] Robert Welch wrote that: **"There are more than 50,000 people who joined the JBS at some time during the past 12 years who are no longer members...About 1000 did not prove to be desirable members. They were asked to resign and their names have been removed from our dormant list."**

## **1973**

In an August 1, 1974 memo to JBS members captioned **"To Whom It May Concern"**, Robert Welch declared that 1973 dues payments totaled **"about \$700,000"** and that amounted to about two-thirds of what total actual membership dues should have been if everyone had paid on time. That would mean that actual dues should have amounted to about \$1,060,000. At an \$18 average, that would calculate to about **58,888 JBS members**.

## **1976**

In June 1976, an Associated Press reporter (quoting a JBS official at JBS HQ in Belmont, MA) stated that the JBS claimed it had formed 500 new chapters within the previous two years **for a total of 4,000 chapters**. Since a typical chapter was comprised of 10 to 20 members, then if we use the half-way point (15 members per chapter average), we can deduce that the JBS was claiming to have almost 60,000 **"dues-paying members"**.

## **1976**

The Public Relations Director for the JBS (Jack McManus) told a Houston reporter that: **"McManus said the Birch Society has 65,000 members in the nation and about 800 to 1000 in the Houston area."** [6/21/76 *Houston TX Chronicle*, **"Birchers Here Keep Low Profile"**, FBI-Houston 62-1521, serial #138].

## **1983-1985**

Based upon financial statements of the JBS, the following are estimates of JBS membership based upon \$18 average dues payment.

1983 = \$673,304 in member dues would calculate to 34,405 members

1984 = \$750,409 in member dues would calculate to 41,689 members

1985 = \$622,333 in member dues would calculate to 34,574 members

## **1983**

Charles Armour, the JBS District Governor for Western States, stated that the JBS had between 40,000 and 80,000 members. [United Press International report dated 3/14/83].

## **1986**

In June, a JBS spokesman told a *New York Times* reporter that the JBS had **"several tens of thousands, not more than 50,000"** members. [*New York Times*, 9/1/86, page 24, **"John Birch Society Has Money Woes"**]

When the JBS filed its 1986 Annual Report "**Form PC**" to the Division of Public Charities, Department of Attorney General—Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the JBS reported that it received \$898,741 in member dues payments during 1986. At an \$18 average, that would compute to about 49,930 members.

## **1991**

Tom Eddlem, the Research Director of the JBS, stated that:

**"Before last year, our membership was flat for three or four years, and before that it had been declining since about 1976. But we've seen a 50 percent to 60 percent increase in membership over the past six months compared to the same period last year."**

[United Press International report, 6/3/91, **"Birch Society Claims Gulf War Bolstered Membership"**.]

## **1992**

A 1992 Report written by Charles J. Kraft (link below) was based upon discarded JBS mailing lists when the JBS moved its HQ from Belmont MA to Appleton WI. Using data from the mailing list, Kraft reported that JBS membership was down to **21,284**.

<https://archive.org/details/1992DemographicProfileOfBirchSocietyMembership>

**Other relevant information from Kraft's report:**

**JBS members in specific locations:**

AK=76

AL=459

AR=148  
AZ=577  
CA=2648  
CO=590  
CT=118  
DC=6  
DE=20  
FL=1154  
GA=949  
HI=29  
IA=311  
ID=439  
IL=447  
IN=635  
KS=210  
KY=290  
LA=257  
MA=247  
MD=159  
ME=31  
MI=412  
MN=553  
MO=225  
MS=225  
MT=345  
NC=529  
ND=214  
NE=421  
NH=71  
NJ=416  
NM=139  
NV=108  
NY=773  
OH=726  
OK=501  
OR=345  
PA=586  
RI=17  
SC=289  
SD=324  
TN=694  
TX=1232  
UT=516  
VA=235  
VT=0  
WA=873  
WI=605  
WV=23  
WY=98

PR (Puerto Rico)=2

**Highest per capita membership (Top Ten States):**

SD (0.04570)  
ID (0.04399)  
MT (0.04265)  
ND (0.03185)  
UT (0.03071)  
NE (0.02641)  
WY (0.02000)  
WA (0.01924)  
CO (0.01790)  
AZ (0.01704)

**JBS members in Foreign locations= 58** (in descending order)

Canada=23  
Australia=5  
Virgin Islands=5  
Mexico=3  
West Germany=3  
Holland=2  
Belgium=2  
Switzerland=2  
Israel=2  
South Africa=2  
Honduras=1  
Ireland=1  
Republic of Korea=1  
Spain=1  
Monaco=1  
Saudi Arabia=1

Based upon statistical sample of 905 members used by Kraft to analyze JBS membership, he concluded that men comprised 64% of membership and women comprised 36%.

2.2% of members consisted of joint (Mr. and Mrs.) members or family memberships.

There was a disproportionate incidence of physicians and dentists. In the general population, **.25%** are physicians vs. **.88%** in JBS sample.

**1993-1997**

Former JBS member Alan Stang posted on his website a confidential internal JBS document which showed the active membership as follows:

<https://archive.org/details/JohnBirchSocietyDuesPayingMembers19931997>

1993 = 13,806  
1994 = 15,243  
1995 = 15,048

1996 = 14,781

1997 = 14,839

### **LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS**

Many JBS members purchased "*lifetime*" memberships at \$1000 each. During the month of September 1967, for example, the JBS received \$24,360 for lifetime memberships. That same month, the JBS received \$110,251.82 in contributions and \$50,256.65 in member dues. The following month, the JBS received \$39,900 in lifetime memberships and \$130,189.34 in contributions.

**Robert Welch comment from 12/67 JBS Bulletin:**

**"So—while we have had many instances where parents sent a check to make their child a Life Member the day the child was born, young Robert Buffington, who became a Life Member two months before he was born, holds the record so far."**

## **PROMINENT JBS MEMBERS AND ENDORSERS**

**NOTE:** It is not always known if someone whose name appeared on the JBS "*Committee of Endorsers*" OR whom, at some point, made public statements endorsing the JBS – might also have been an actual dues-paying member.

### **DECEMBER 1958 FOUNDING MEMBERS OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY**

The founding meeting was held in Indianapolis, Indiana on December 8-9, 1958 at the home of Marguerite Dice.

T. Coleman Andrews (Richmond VA)

Laurence E. Bunker (Wellesley Hills MA)

William J. Grede (Milwaukee WI)

Fred C. Koch (Wichita KS)

W.B. McMillan (St. Louis, MO) – McMillan was the first person to become a JBS member after founder Robert Welch

Revilo P. Oliver (Urbana IL)

Louis Ruthenburg (Evansville IN)

Fitzhugh Scott, Jr. (Milwaukee, WI)

Robert W. Stoddard (Worcester, MA)

Ernest W. Swigert (Portland OR)

**[NOTE:** One other person (William R. Kent of Memphis TN) attended this meeting but he declined to become a founding member.]

## **1969 JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL**

### **1969 JBS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Laurence E. Bunker, William J. Grede, A.G. Heinsohn Jr., Robert H. Montgomery, Robert W. Stoddard

### **1969 JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL (including names shown above)**

N.E. Adamson Jr., S.J. Agnew, Thomas J. Anderson, A. Clifford Barker, Carlton Beal, Frank Cullen Brophy, John T. Brown, Robert H. Buffington, F. Gano Chance, Stillwell J. Conner, Ralph E. Davis, Rev. Francis E. Fenton, Fred C. Koch, Robert D. Love, Clarence Manion, Larry P. McDonald, N. Floyd McGowin, W.B. McMillan, Dr. Thomas Parker, Floyd Paxton, Louis Ruthenberg, J. Nelson Shepherd, Charles B. Stone III.

### **NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AS OF FEBRUARY 1969**

**Clyde R. Lewis** (1966 elected State Senator in Alaska and re-elected in 1968)

**Joe Siegel** (Colorado Springs CO), cattle rancher, Vice-Chairman National Americanism Committee of American Legion, National Chairman, Jewish Society of Americanists)

**Clyde J. Watts** (Oklahoma), attorney and Senior Partner in law firm Watts, Looney, Nichols and Johnson of Oklahoma City. Watts was a Brig. General in U.S. Air Force Reserve; he handled Edwin Walker's successful libel lawsuits against the Associated Press

### 1988 JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL

Asterisked \* names were on JBS Executive Committee

*Armour, Charles R.	JBS President and CEO
Adamson Jr., N.E.	
Bennett, Ronald B.	
*Binzel Jr., Philip E.	
Bubolz, G. Allen	
Buffington, Robert H.	
Busch Jr., William C.	
Conner, Stillwell J.	
Dunn Jr., E.D.	
Gatsis, Andrew J.	
Goehring, Clifford	
Grede, William J.	
*Grinnan, Joseph P.	
Gunn, Norman	
Hays, MacDonald H.	
Hill, Thomas N.	
*Lewis, Clyde R.	
Owen, Russell A.	
*Poole, Elisha C.	Chairman Executive Committee
*Ruckel, C. Walter	
Schmitz, Glenn J.	
Scott, John W.	
Sellers, Thomas D.	
*Smeed, J.R.	
Thomson Jr., Meldrim	
Watson, J. Wayne	
Wilbanks, Bruce A.	

### 2019 JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL

<https://www.jbs.org/national-council/>

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN JBS MEMBERS and ENDORSERS

Former FBI informant Manning Johnson

Former FBI informant Julia Clarice Brown

Former FBI informant Lola Belle Holmes

Former FBI informant Gerald Kirk

Former FBI informant Leonard Patterson

Pastor C. Fain Kyle (Conservative Christian Churches of America, Richmond CA)

Rev. Uriah J. Fields (Montgomery AL)

Rev. Henry Mitchell (Chicago IL)

Rev. E. Freeman Yearling (National Negro Congress of Racial Pride Inc., West Hempstead NY)

Rev. J.L. Ward (Memphis TN)



Rev. Steven Craft (Baptist Minister, NJ)  
Gwendolyn Kyle (Richmond CA)  
Donald L. Jackson (Buffalo NY)  
Ezola B. Foster (2000 VP nominee, Reform Party)  
George S. Schuyler (African American columnist and author)  
Charles E. Smith (publisher, *Voice of Watts* – Los Angeles CA)  
Alvin D. Smith (publisher *Butler County OH American*)

#### **OTHER JBS MEMBERS and ENDORSERS**

Actor Adolphe Menjou  
Actor Walter Brennan  
Actor Zasu Pitts  
Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt (Teddy Roosevelt's 5th son)  
Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice M.T. Phelps  
Ed Davis (former Police Chief, Los Angeles CA)  
Clarence E. Manion (former Dean of Notre Dame University Law School)  
Taylor Caldwell (author/novelist)  
Grace Lumpkin (author/novelist)  
Elizabeth Linington (author/novelist)  
Westbrook Pegler (author and newspaper columnist)  
J.B. Matthews (Director of Research, U.S. House Committee on Un-American Activities aka Dies Committee)  
James C. Quayle (father of former Vice President Dan Quayle; Chairman, Huntington Newspapers, Inc.)  
Phillip Chandler (publisher of Los Angeles Times)  
Robert W. Stoddard (publisher, Worcester MA Telegram & Gazette)  
Myrian G. Brown (Editor and Publisher, Tri-State News Advertiser, Hurricane UT)  
Thomas J. Anderson (Editor and Publisher, Farm and Ranch magazin)  
Dr. Horace Greeley (great grandson of 18th century editor of New York Tribune)  
W.D. Workman aka William Douglas Workman Jr. (Editor, *The State* - Columbia, SC; candidate for Governor of SC)  
James J. Allman, Director Community Relations for St. Louis Police Dept  
T. Coleman Andrews (former IRS Commissioner and 1956 States' Rights Party Presidential candidate)  
Les Andrew (Vice-Chairman of United Republicans of California)  
H.L. Richardson (California State Senator and JBS Western Division spokesperson)  
D. Richard Pine (JBS Major Coordinator, Southern California, formerly California state Major Coordinator)  
G. Edward Griffin (JBS Audio-Visual Director)  
George H. Klicka (Wisconsin Republican State Assemblyman, 20th District)  
Richard W. Friske Sr. (Michigan State Representative, 106<sup>th</sup> District, 1970-1972)  
Matt Shea (Washington State Representative, 4th Legislative District)  
Kenneth J. Merkel (Wisconsin State Assemblyman)  
J. Reese Hunter (Utah State Assembly)  
Mary Helm (Oklahoma State Senator)  
Clyde R. Lewis (Alaska State Senator and JBS National Council)  
Richard Middleton (member Virginia House of Delegates)  
Dr. Bruce L. Odou (Montebello CA City Council and then Mayor)  
Leo F. Kahian (Middleboro MA town selectman)  
Sally Bell (Tulsa OK candidate for County Commission)  
Robert K. Bell (Tulsa OK and JBS National Council member)  
Jack Seale (Mayor, Amarillo TX)  
Gov. Don Samuelson (Idaho)  
Gov. J. Bracken Lee (Utah) (and former Mayor of Salt Lake City)  
Gov. Charles Edison (former Secretary of Navy and Governor of New Jersey)  
Gov. Meldrim Thompson (New Hampshire)  
Cong. Howard Buffet (Nebraska)  
Cong. Ron Paul (Texas)

Cong. Helen Chenoweth-Hage (Idaho)  
Cong. Thomas H. Werdel (California and 1956 States' Rights Party candidate for Vice President)  
Cong. Wint Smith (Kansas)  
Cong. Edgar Hiestand (California)  
Cong. James B. Utt (California)  
Cong. James Simpson (Illinois)  
Cong. John G. Schmitz (California) ( and Presidential candidate, American Party)  
Cong. John Rousselot (California)  
Cong. Kit Clardy (Michigan)  
Cong. Larry McDonald (Georgia) (and leader of JBS after Robert Welch died)  
Denison Kitchel (Goldwater Campaign Manager)  
David A. Noebel (President, American Christian College)  
Spruille Braden (U.S. Ambassador and former Assistant Secretary of State)  
Bryton Barron (U.S. State Department Historian)  
J. Evetts Haley (Texas historian and author)  
Dr. Charles C. Tansill (Georgetown University historian)  
Dr. Nathaniel E. Adamson (Boston surgeon and former Asst Medical Director, of New England Life Insurance Co.)  
Rev. Richard Ginder (Associate Editor Our Sunday Visitor and Editor of The Priest)  
Rev. Billy James Hargis (Founder and leader of Christian Crusade)  
Rev. Francis E. Fenton (JBS National Council member)  
Bishop Mark K. Carroll (Wichita KS)  
Father John J. Dussman (pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Glenview IL, from 1934-1971)  
Joseph Morecraft III (theologian)  
Ezra Taft Benson (Mormon Church leader and former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; endorsed but didn't join)  
Flora Benson (Ezra's wife – joined JBS)  
Mark Benson (Ezra's second son – joined JBS)  
R.J. Rushdoony (Christian Reconstructionism theologian)  
Gary K. North (economic historian, Institute of Christian Economics)  
Rabbi Baruch Korff (Congregation Agudath Achim, Taunton MA)  
Rabbi Max Merritt (American Jewish League Against Communism)  
Mike Armstrong (New York Yankees pitcher)  
Dave Dravecky (San Diego Padres pitcher)  
Mark Thurmond (San Diego Padres pitcher)  
Eric Snow (San Diego Padres pitcher)  
Dan Smoot (former FBI Special Agent)  
W. Cleon Skousen (former FBI Special Agent)  
FBI informant Matt Cvetic  
Hedda Hopper (Hollywood gossip columnist)  
Morrie Ryskind (Broadway dramatist and lyricist)  
Col. Laurence E. Bunker (former personal aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur; JBS National Council member)  
Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers (US Army)  
Brig. Gen. William L. Lee (USAF)  
Brig. Gen. Robert Lee Scott Jr. (author, *God is My Co-Pilot*)  
Lt. Gen. Sumter L. Lowry (President, Florida Coalition of Patriotic Societies)  
Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone (Commander 14th Airforce in China)  
Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond  
Maj. Gen. Robert Blake  
Vice Admiral C.S. Freeman  
Vice Admiral T.G.W. Settle  
Rear Adm. Paulus P. Powell  
Phyllis Schlafly (Eagle Forum, Stop ERA movement)  
Fred Koch (President, Rock Island Oil and Refining Co.)  
Charles Koch (Koch Industries, Inc. and Cato Institute)

Floyd G. Paxton (Kwik-Lok Co.)  
K.G. Bentson (Union Rock and Minerals Corporation)  
Martin J. Condon III (Chairman, Conwood Corporation; President Southern States Industrial Council)  
D.B. Lewis (owner, Dr. Ross Pet Foods)  
Garman O. Kimmel (founder Kimray Inc., inventor)  
J.S. Kimmel Sr. (Founder and President, Republic Electric Company, Davenport IA)  
Hugh H. Armstrong Sr. (President, Hugh H. Armstrong Enterprises, Savannah GA)  
William Clinton Mullendore (Chairman of the Board, Southern California Edison Company)  
Edgar Ainesworth Eyre (Director W.R. Grace and Company)  
George M. Tisdale (former VP, U.S. Rubber Company)  
Rosalind Kress Haley (daughter of founder of S.H. Kress & Co. department store chain)  
Lemel Nelson Bell (co-founder *Southern Presbyterian Journal* and father-in-law of Billy Graham)  
Alfred Kohlberg (Textile importer)  
Joseph Coors (former President, Coors Brewing Company)  
James L. Coker (President, Sonoco Products)  
J. Howard Pew (President, Sun Oil Company aka Sunoco; stockholder in Robert Welch Inc.)  
William Penn Patrick (CEO, Holiday Magic)  
Nelson Bunker Hunt (billionaire, Hunt Oil Co.)  
Harry L. Bradley (billionaire, co-founder Allen-Bradley Co.)  
Roger Milliken (billionaire, textile manufacturer, Milliken & Co.)  
William J. Grede (CEO Grede Foundries, Inc. and President Wisconsin Manufacturers Assn; head of international YMCA and JBS National Council member)  
Ernest W. Swigert (former President, National Manufacturers Assn; JBS National Council member)  
F. Gano Chance (CEO, A.B. Chance Co and former President Missouri Chamber of Commerce)  
Stillwell J. Conner (President, Conroth Company; JBS National Council member)  
Ralph E. Davis (President, General Plant Protection Co., JBS National Council member)  
A.G. Heinsohn Jr. (President, Cherokee Mills, TN; JBS National Council member)  
Frank E. Masland Jr. (President, C.H. Masland & Sons; JBS National Council member)  
N. Floyd McGowin (President, W.T. Smith Lumber Co., JBS National Council member)  
W.B. McMillan (President, Hussman Refrigerator Co.; JBS National Council member)  
Cola G. Parker (CEO, Kimberly-Clark Co and former President, NAM and on NAM Executive and Finance Committees; JBS National Council)  
Louis Ruthenberg (President and Chairman of Board, Servel, Inc.; former President Indiana State Chamber of Commerce)  
J. Nelson Shepherd (President, Midwest-Beach Co.; JBS National Council member)  
Paul H. Talbert (President, Paul H. Talbert Co; JBS National Council member)  
William R. Kent (CEO, Southern Air Services, Inc.)  
Edwin S. Dillard (President, Old Dominion Box Co.)  
Frank C. Brophy (Chairman AZ Central Bank, President Libby Fruit Packing Co.; JBS National Council member)  
Robert D. Love (Chairman of Board, Love Box Company; JBS National Council member)  
Glenn A. Green (Education Director, National Right-To-Work Committee; VP, National Education Program, Harding College, Searcy AR)  
Dr. Paul Lindstrom (Christian Liberty Academy)  
Dr. Stanley Monteith (host of daily Radio Liberty program)  
Robert Leaman (Director of JBS Ad Hoc Committees for Western states i.e. TRAIN, TACT)  
D. Richard Pine (JBS Major Coordinator for Southern California)  
Charles R. Armour (JBS Major Coordinator for Northern California)  
Larry Abraham (JBS Major Coordinator for Washington, Alaska, Hawaii)  
Donald H. Kennedy (JBS Major Coordinator for Mountain States)  
Richard N. Ober (Vice President, Robert Welch Inc.)  
Thomas J. Haas (Editor-in-Chief for JBS publishing house, Western Islands and Robert Welch's Research Assistant for 5 years)  
Ken Granger (artist and photographer who did artwork and graphics for all JBS filmstrips)  
Kenneth Q. Volk Jr. (JBS Finance Committee)

## JBS MEMBERS AND ENDORSERS

### SOURCE CODES

**AOMS = American Opinion magazine subscribers who recommended it as reliable in 1958. Many became JBS members later.**

**CSS = Calif Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities 1963 Report**

**JBCE = JBS Committee of Endorsers**

**JBFC = JBS Field Coordinators (1961)**

**JBHQ = John Birch Society HQ staff (1961)**

**JB I = JBS Incorporators**

**JBNC = JBS National Council (first members, 1960)**

**JBNC\* = JBS National Council (subsequent members)**

**JRM = JBS Recruitment Memo (written just after 12/58 founding meeting in Indianapolis)**

**OCS = Our Council Speaks flyer published by JBS**

NAME	SOURCE
Capt. Stephen Abbott	OCS / CSS
Dr. N.E. Adamson Jr.	JBNC
Dr. Lewis A. Alesen	CSS / JBCE
Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond	OCS / CSS
Thomas J. Anderson	JRM / JBNC
T. Coleman Andrews	JRM / JBNC
Hugh H. Armstrong Sr.-Savannah GA	JBCE / JBFC
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Atkinson	OCS
Leonard Banowitz--Wichita KS	JBFC
John U. Barr	OCS / JBCE
Bryton Barron—Washington DC	JBFC
Akard S Beall—Houston TX	OCS / JBFC
John T. Beatty	AOMS / JBCE
P.C. Beezley—Seattle WA	JBCE / JBFC
Reed A. Benson	OCS
George S. Birch	OCS
Ethel Birch	OCS
Harold Blacker	OCS
Melick W. Blades	OCS
Maj. Gen. Robert Blake	OCS / CSS / JBCE
George O. Blome	OCS
Claude Boring--Florida	JBFC

<b>Spruille Braden</b>	<b>AOMS / JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Harry R. Bradley</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Tullius Brady</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>David Breen (JBS Coordinator)</b>	<b>JBHQ</b>
<b>Owen Brewster</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Jack Brogan—Houston TX</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Frank Cullen Brophy</b>	<b>JBCE / JBNC*</b>
<b>Harry Brown –Los Angeles CA</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Col. Laurence E. Bunker</b>	<b>AOMS / CSS / JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Harry L. Burns</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>H.G. Carpenter</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>M. Lyle Cashion Sr.—Houston TX</b>	<b>OCS / JBFC</b>
<b>Eugene W. Castle</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>F. Gano Chance</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>Cong. Kit Clardy</b>	<b>OCS / CSS</b>
<b>Stillwell J. Conner</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>William B. Coberly Jr.</b>	<b>AOMS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Mrs. George P. Cooke</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>W.T. Couch</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Mrs. Kenneth C. Crain</b>	<b>JBCE</b>
<b>Dr. Richard H. Creel</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Mrs. Joseph Crosby—South Pasadena CA</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Matt Cvetic</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Matt Dassinger—Montana</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Ralph E. Davis</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>Thomas J. Davis—Stamford CT</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Frank de Ganahl</b>	<b>AOMS / JBCE</b>
<b>Pedro A. Del Valle</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Lewis A. Dibble</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Edwin S. Dillard</b>	<b>JRM / JBCE</b>
<b>Norman Dodd</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Dr. James L. Doenges</b>	<b>JBCE</b>
<b>Rev. Frank A. Drabinowicz</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Slobodan M. Draskovich</b>	<b>JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Robert B. Dresser</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS / JRM / JBCE</b>
<b>James J. Drummey (JBS Research Dept)</b>	<b>JBHQ</b>
<b>Richard Durant</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Charles Edison</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Holley R. Ellis</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Medford Evans</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
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<b>W.R. Fawcett</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Rev. Francis E. Fenton</b>	<b>JBCE / JBNC*</b>
<b>Leslie Fleming—Portland OR</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Dr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Flory</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Dorothy B. Frankston</b>	<b>AOMS</b>

Vice Adm. C.S. Freeman	OCS / CSS / JBCE
Dr. Francis X. Gannon (JBS Research Director)	JBHQ
Frank W. Gaydosh	OCS / JBCE
Rev. Richard Ginder	JBNC
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William J. Grede	JRM / JBNC
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Juliette D. Guild	JBH
Warren (Ted) Hackett	OCS
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E.P. Hamilton	JRM
Dan Hanson	OCS / JBCE
David Harmon—Milwaukee WI	JBFC
Merwin K. Hart	JBCE
William Haviland (JBS Coordinator)	JBHQ
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A.G. Heinsohn Jr.	JRM / JBNC
Dr. George J. Hess	OCS / JBCE
Cong. Edgar W. Hiestand	OCS / CSS / JBCE
Thomas N. Hill (JBS Coordinator)	JBHQ
Frank E. Holman	AOMS
Estelle Hotin (Secy to Dr. Francis X. Gannon)	JBHQ
Dr. and Mrs. J.J. Hughes	OCS
Col. Tom R. Hutton	OCS / CSS / JBCE
Irving E. Ingraham	OCS
Dr. and Mrs. Edward C. Jenkins	OCS
Phillip L. Jenkins	JBH
Richard Johnson—Green Bay WI	JBFC
Dr. Vernon P. Johnson	OCS
Rev. Francis Keane	OCS
Edward Kelley—Michigan	JBFC
N.W. Kelley	AOMS
Husband E. Kimmel	AOMS
J.S. Kimmel Sr. aka Joseph Stephen Kimmel Sr.	OCS / JBCE
Sanford P. Knapp—Long Island NY	JBFC
Dr. Granville F. Knight	JBNC
Fred C. Koch	JRM / JBNC
Bob Koenig—Chicago IL	JBFC
Alfred Kohlberg	AOMS / JBNC
Hubert W. Kregeloh	OCS / JBCE
Rose Wilder Lane	AOMS

<b>A.E. Larson</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>William LaVarre</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Brig. Gen. William L. Lee—Amarillo TX</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE / JBFC</b>
<b>J. Bracken Lee</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Dr. Paul W. Leithart</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Charles J. Lewin</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>D.B. Lewis</b>	<b>CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Col. L.E. Limpert</b>	<b>CSS</b>
<b>Mrs. Alfred Lippmann Jr.</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Dr. N.B. Livingston Jr.</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>William Loeb</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>R.S. Logan</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>F.F. Loock</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Robert D. Love</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE / JBNC*</b>
<b>Ellen M. Lovett</b>	<b>JB</b>
<b>Lt. Gen. Sumter L. Lowry</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Norman D. MacLeod</b>	<b>OCS JBCE</b>
<b>Clarence Manion</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>C.O. Mann—Odessa TX</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>James G. Martin IV</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Frank E. Masland Jr.</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>J.P. McCallie</b>	<b>OCS</b>
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<b>Halsey McGovern</b>	<b>OCS</b>
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<b>W.L. McGrath</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Harold McKinney (Assistant to Robert Welch)</b>	<b>JBHQ</b>
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<b>Matt McKeon</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>W.B. McMillan</b>	<b>JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Adolphe Menjou</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>Chet Merriam—Santa Barbara CA</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Roger Milliken</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Kenneth L. Meyers—Wichita KS</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Mrs. Seth Milliken</b>	<b>JBCE</b>
<b>Norma C. Monath</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Robert H. Montgomery</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE / JBNC*</b>
<b>Dr. E.L. Montgomery</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>J.S. Munsell (aka Jack)</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>David R. Murphey Jr.</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Mrs. Sam Nicols</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Revalo P. Oliver</b>	<b>JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Mr. and Mrs. William J. O’Neil</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Edmund A. Opitz</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Capt. R.W. Orrell and May Orell</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>T.I. Parkinson Jr.</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Cola G. Parker</b>	<b>JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Martha Parker</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Dr. Thomas Parker</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE / JBNC*</b>

<b>Doris A. Parks</b>	<b>CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Sister M. Margaret Patricia</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Dr. Charles W. Pavey—Columbus OH</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE / JBFC</b>
<b>Mrs. T.E. Payne</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Dr. J.C. Peele</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Albert Penn</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Samuel B. Pettingill</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>J. Howard Pew</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>M.T. Phelps</b>	<b>JBNC</b>
<b>Mrs. C.H. Phetteplace</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>H.J. Pierson—Indianapolis IN</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Col. W. Bruce Pirnie</b>	<b>CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>R. Carter Pittman</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Ward Poag—Memphis TN</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Nick Polites</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Florence Post</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS</b>
<b>James H. Pound—Tallahassee FL</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Rear Adm. Paulus P. Powell</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Ace Powell and Mrs. Powell</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Max Pray</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Sartell Prentice Jr.</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Dr. Hugh S. Ramsey</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Jimmy Rea</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Commodore Frederick G. Reinicke</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Dr. George S. Richardson</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Lt. Gen. James P. Riseley</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JBCE</b>
<b>Harry M. Robbins</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>C.B. Robinson</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Archibald B. Roosevelt</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>E. Merrill Root</b>	<b>AOMS / OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Cong. John H. Rousselot</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Don Rueber and Joan Reuber—Milwaukee WI</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Louis Ruthenberg</b>	<b>AOMS / JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Morrie Ryskind</b>	<b>AOMS</b>
<b>Dr. Melchior F.R. Savarese</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>William S. Schlamm</b>	<b>OCS / JBCE</b>
<b>Cong. Gordon H. Scherer</b>	<b>AOMS / JBCE</b>
<b>William R. Schneider</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Fitzhugh Scott Jr.</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Dr. Henry H. Schwarzell</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Vice Adm. T.G.W. Settle</b>	<b>OCS / CSS / JRM / JBCE</b>
<b>J. Nelson Shepherd</b>	<b>JRM / JBNC</b>
<b>Dorothy Shepherd</b>	<b>JRM</b>
<b>Bob Sherman</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Orville Sherwood—Detroit MI</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Edmond F. Shoheen—Compton CA</b>	<b>JBFC</b>
<b>Judge Wilbur L. Shull</b>	<b>OCS</b>
<b>Olive Simes</b>	<b>JBCE</b>
<b>James Simpson Jr.</b>	<b>JBNC</b>



Mrs. Norman Skogstad	JBCE
Donald W. Smith—Dallas TX	JBFC
Cong. Wint Smith	OCS / JBCE
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Smith	OCS
Col. William F. Smith	OCS
Ellen Douglas Snow	JB
Robert B. Snowden	OCS / AOMS
Mrs. John J. Spittler	OCS
Kent Steffgen—St. Louis MO	JBFC
Suzanne Silvercruys Stevenson	AOMS
Charles J. Stillwell	JRM
Edna Stillwell	JRM
Robert B. Stoddard	JRM / JBNC
Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III	CSS / JBNC
Joseph Sullivan	OCS
Stuart Swenson—Dallas TX	JBFC
Ernest W. Swigert	JRM / JBNC*
Paul H. Talbert	JBNC
Martin Vaaler	OCS
Dallas Wales—Shreveport LA	JBFC
Col. William E. Warner	OCS
Maj. Gen. W.G. Weaver	OCS / CSS
Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer	AOMS
Dr. Louis S. Wegryn	OCS
Marian Probert Welch	JB
Robert H.W. Welch Jr.	JB
Cong. Thomas H. Werdel	OCS / CSS
Brig. Gen. T.F. Wessels	OCS / CSS / JBCE
Mary M. White	JB
E.L. Wiegand	JBCE
W.H. Wilbur	AOMS
Maj. Gen. Charles A. Willoughby	OCS / CSS
Col. A. Vincent Wilson	OCS / CSS
Mrs. Norman Woehrle	OCS
Tom Wunderlick—Dallas TX	JBFC
Dr. Bob Yeargan—Birmingham AL	JBFC
Glenn O. Young	AOMS / OCS / JBCE

## **CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ON JBS NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ENDORSERS**

**NOTE:** It is not always known if someone on the official National Committee of Endorsers may also have been a dues-paying member of the JBS. These names appear in the 1963 *Report* of the California Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities (pages 41-42).

Frank P. Adams  
Dr. Lewis A. Alesen  
Mrs. Gertrude Derby Bale  
Maj. Gen. Robert Blake  
Andrew Brown  
Kit Clardy (former Congressman from Michigan)

William B. Coberly Jr.  
William W. Cone  
C.M. Crawford  
Dr. Richard H. Creel  
Matt Cvetic  
W.R. Fawcett  
Mrs. Helen H. Garretson  
Francis P. Graves  
D. Hanson Grubb  
J.H. Harris  
Cong. Edgar W. Hiestand  
Rev. Francis Keane  
Max A. Koffman  
D.B. Lewis (Dallas Bedford Lewis)  
Diane M. Lowery  
Mrs. Doris A. Parks  
Sister M. Margaret Patricia  
Ray M. Spaulding  
Thomas H. Werdel (former Congressman)  
Col. A. Vincent Wilson

## **RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS ENDORSING THE JBS**

Capt. Stephen Abbott  
Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond  
Maj. Gen. Robert Blake  
Col. Laurence E. Bunker  
Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers  
Vice Admiral C.S. Freeman  
Col. Tom R. Hutton  
Brig. Gen. William L. Lee  
Cool. L.E. Limpert  
Lt. Gen. Sumter L. Lowry  
Capt. R.W. Orell  
Col. W. Bruce Pirnie  
Commodore Frederick G. Reinicke  
Lt. Gen. James P. Riseley  
Rear Admiral T.G.W. Settle  
Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone  
Maj. Gen. W.G. Weaver  
Brig. Gen. T.F. Wessels  
Col. A. Vincent Wilson  
Maj. Gen. Charles Willoughby

## **JBS MAGAZINE OFFICIALS**

***(listed in 02/64 issue of JBS magazine, American Opinion = AO)***

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Brogan, Colm	Contributing Editor, AO
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Dresser, Robert B.  
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Evans, Medford  
Gannon, Francis X.  
Gray, Donald R.  
Grede, William J.  
Lee, J. Bracken  
Manion, Clarence  
McGowin, N. Floyd  
McMillan, W.B.  
Ober, Richard N.  
Oliver, Revilo P.  
Pegler, Westbrook  
Pew, J. Howard  
Root, E. Merrill  
Sennholz, Hans  
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Associate Editor, AO  
Contributing Editor, AO  
Editorial Advisory Committee, AO  
Associate Editor, AO  
Contributing Editor, AO  
Editorial Advisory Committee, AO

**JBS members/supporters who were POLITICIANS or INFLUENTIAL WITHIN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS**

James J. Allman, Director Community Relations for St. Louis Police Dept – resigned to become JBS Coordinator for Missouri

Les Andrew, JBS member, was vice-chairman of United Republicans of California

Howard H. Buffet – father of Warren Buffet served as U.S. Congressman from 2nd CD of Nebraska, 1943-1949 and 1951-1953

John Rousselot held seat on Los Angeles County Central Republican Committee and was U.S. Congressman for 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in California

H.L. ("Bill") Richardson, JBS member, won seat in 1966 in California State Senate

John G. Schmitz, JBS member and subsequently National Council member, won California State Senate seat in 1964 and re-elected 1966; then won 11/70 special election for U.S. Congress in California 35<sup>th</sup> CD; in 1972 he was nominated for President by American Party.

George Klicka, JBS member, elected to Wisconsin State Assembly (circa 1966)

Kenneth J. Merkel, JBS member, elected and re-elected to Wisconsin State Assembly (circa 1966)

J. Reese Hunter, Utah JBS member, elected to Utah Assembly

C.R. Lewis, JBS member and National Council, elected to Alaska State Senate in 1966 and re-elected 1968

Dr. Bruce L. Odou, JBS member and Section Leader, elected 1963 to Montebello CA City Council and then Mayor 1965-1966

Leo F. Kahian, JBS member, elected town selectman in Middleboro MA

Charles Edison, JBS member and National Council, former Secretary of Navy and Governor of New Jersey

J. Bracken Lee, JBS endorser, Mayor of Salt Lake City and Governor of Utah

**DEMOGRAPHIC INFO RE: JBS MEMBERSHIP**

**1960**

According to Robert Welch:

"In the primary campaigns, the Republican primary of 1960, about two-thirds of our members were for Goldwater and about one-third were for Nixon for the nomination..." [*Houston TX Post*, 4/18/61, page 1, Saul Friedman: **"Welch Calls Houston Stronghold of Birch Society"**; FBI-Houston 62-1521, serial #71].

### 1961

In a May 1961 Robert Welch letter to attorney Neil McCarthy, Welch told McCarthy that approximately one-half of JBS membership was Catholic, one-half of the field staff was Catholic and two-thirds of the Home office employees (in Belmont MA) were Catholic.

### 1962

April 4, 1962 Robert Welch letter to Verne Kaub:

**"Actually, and I am sorry to say, we do not have too many Jews in the JBS. This is partly because a smaller percentage of the Jewish people in America as a whole are true conservatives, than of the total population. But it is even more because of the greater pressures and dirtier pressures, which are put on them, against standing up for what they believe...But when you get into the Zionist picture, I repeat that you cannot think any less of the whole government of Israel or of the whole Zionist conspiracy than I do; except that I think its relative importance in the total importance in the whole picture has greatly decreased over the past three decades. Some day...I should be glad to exchange views with you...as to what has really taken place since around 1905 when I think the Zionist conspiracy -- and from then on for perhaps two decades --- was practically the father of the International Communist Conspiracy. Today I personally think that the relationship is almost exactly reversed, and that the child had now so far outgrown the parent in size and strength and importance that the parent is in a relatively minor position. But this does not make Golda Meir or Ben-Gurion or any of their extremist followers in this country any less culpable.."**

### 1963

When the JBS opened its new Western Division HQ in San Marino, CA, JBS spokesperson H.R. (Bill) Richardson stated that 30% of JBS membership were registered as Democrats. [*San Marino CA Tribune*, 3/21/63, p8; **"Birchers Open Regional Office For All to See"**]

On July 15, 1963, the JBS reprinted the 1963 California Senate Factfinding Subcommittee Report on the JBS. it was then entitled **"The California Report on the John Birch Society"** It also included 20 pages of footnotes by Robert Welch which were intended to correct alleged errors or misunderstandings by the Subcommittee. The Introduction by Welch mentions that **"And while nationally about half of the Birchers are Democrats, in California a preponderant percentage are active in the Republican Party."**

### 1965

JBS founder and leader Robert Welch told a *Washington Post* reporter on 11/5/65 that **"1/10 of 1% of JBS members were Negro"** and Welch claimed that the JBS had 80,000-100,000 members which would mean about 80-100 black members. **However**, based upon JBS membership dues payments at that time, the JBS actually had only about 29,800 members in 1965 so if the percentage of black members mentioned by Welch was accurate, then the JBS only had about 30 black members.

### 1965

JBS Eastern Regional Director Thomas J. Davis told a North Carolina newspaper that the JBS was composed of:

- 50% men, 50% women
- About 50% each of Democrats and Republicans with a slight edge for GOP
- Mostly middle-class members but not too many in their 20's, more in their 30's and most between 40 and 60 years old, some older than that
- **"as Mr. Welch says humorously, about 60 percent Protestant, 40 percent Catholic and one percent Jewish, which he admits adds up to 101 percent, but that means we have very few Jews—though the ones we have are fine people, good members...The Society also has a few Negro members"** [8/19/65 *Charlotte NC Observer* article entitled **"Birch Society Public Relations Man Comes Here to Seek Members"**; FBI-Charlotte 100-9548, serial 142].

### 1966

## **In February, Jewish members of the JBS founded the Jewish Society of Americanists (JSA).**

Honorary Chairman = Charles J. Bloch

Chairman = Joseph A. Siegel (Colorado Springs CO)

Chairman = Joseph Siegel (Colorado Springs CO)

Siegel owned J.A. Siegel and Associates. In December 1967, Siegel sent a letter to the House Committee on Un-American Activities regarding American Civil Liberties Union which observed that: **"It is my considered opinion that the findings of an investigation by the HUAC may very well warrant placement of the ACLU on the Attorney General's subversive list."** [FBI-HQ file 61-190, serial #1180, 12/26/67 Siegel letter to HUAC Chairman Edwin Willis with copies to J. Edgar Hoover and Atty General Nicholas Katzenbach.]

### JSA Vice-Chairmen

Samuel L. Blumenfeld (Boston MA)

Dr. Samuel L. Blumenfeld. was a member of the JBS Speakers Bureau for several decades starting in the 1960s. He was a contributing editor of JBS magazines *The Review of The News* and *American Opinion* and *The New American*).

Vice-Chairman = Michael S. Kogan

Secretary = Mrs. Mildred Kaplan

### National Advisory Council:

Lillian Abrahams

Morton Diamond

David Eisenberg (Tucson AZ = he later served on JBS National Council)

Dr. Barney Finkel

Frank Friedman

Georgia Gabor

Leonard and Marilyn Goldstein

Charles Hartman

Dr. Joseph Katz

Jack Ross

Loren Smith

Alan Stang

### Doctors Committee:

Chairman = Barney Finkel

Vice-Chairman = Harlan Sindell

Philip Jacobson

Joseph Katz

Howard Moses

Seymour Weisman

### 2/18/66 article on JSA published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency

"Two Jews, who said they are members of the John Birch Society, announced here today that they are forming a new organization, called the Jewish Society of Americanists. The men are Samuel Blumenfeld an employee of the John Birch Society, in Boston; and Alan Stang, of New York, author of a book linking the civil rights movement with Communism.

They issued a statement of principles declaring that the society's aim will be 'to demonstrate to our fellow Americans and coreligionist that the Americanist principles, beliefs and aims of the John Birch Society are based on the very precepts of Judaism.'

At a news conference they said that, since an announcement two weeks ago in a Birch Society publication that the Jewish group would be formed, 'several hundred' Jews around the country have endorsed the move. Mr. Stang, declaring the title of the society a 'misnomer', said the group will admit not only non-Jews but also non-members of the John Birch Society.

Thomas J. Davis, public relations manager for Eastern United States of the John Birch Society, claimed there are 1,000 Jews in the USA among the society's 100,000 members. Listed among the officers of the new group are Michael S. Kogan, chairman; Mr. Blunmenfeld, vice-chairman; and W.C. Solomon, executive secretary. None of them is known in Jewish public life."

### 1966

The Eastern Regional Manager for the JBS (Thomas Davis) **"said the membership is about half-and-half Republican and Democratic with a slight edge of Republicans. He said its members were about 50 percent Protestants, 40 percent Catholics, with about 1000 Jewish members and a few Negroes."** [Houston TX Chronicle, 8/8/66, **"Birch Society Membership Gains Claimed"**, FBI-Houston 62-1521, serial #125].

### 1966

On February 15, 1966 Robert Welch sent a memo to Donald R. Gray, the Business Manager of the Birch Society's Wholesale Book Division, in reply to Gray's 2/14/66 memo to all the Managers of the Birch Society's American Opinion bookstores. In his memo, Gray advises JBS bookstores about the type of **"anti-semitic"** material which should not be sold in AO bookstores.

According to Gray's instructions, **"...most of the books and pamphlets with an anti-Semitic flavor which we omit from our booklist are not of sufficient value in substance or scholarship to rise above the level of anti-Semitic invective or propaganda. Frankly, in our opinion, this applies to most of the books or pamphlets by Marilyn Allen, Richard Cotten, Myron Fagan, Kenneth Goff, Wickliffe Vennard, Eustace Mullins, Gerald K. Smith, Robert H. Williams and Benjamin Freedman."**

In his memo, Robert Welch claims that in February 1966, the Birch Society had **"several hundred"** Jewish members. It is not clear how he could know this since JBS membership applications do not have a field for entry of religious heritage and the JBS did not allow scholars to survey JBS members in order to construct a factual summary of demographic data regarding their membership.

Welch referred to the recent publication by the Anti-Defamation League of its 112-page book entitled **"Report on The John Birch Society 1966"**. Welch then presents a blame-the-victim type of argument: **"...one purpose of the ADL in publishing this recent booklet is to try to make us and our members actually anti-Semitic. Whole booklet...shows that they are now out to try to destroy the John Birch Society at any cost, and practically by any means. And they would certainly consider driving us into anti-Semitic feelings as one way of doing so."**

Thus, in the JBS scheme of things, when JBS members (by word or deed) revealed their anti-semitic sentiments, it was the fault of Jewish organizations like ADL for discovering and documenting those incidents. Furthermore, apparently Welch is acknowledging that JBS members would be receptive to believing or circulating anti-semitic arguments -- which is why he thinks that the ADL would expend energy and resources **"to try to make us and our members actually anti-Semitic."**

## **This is a constant contradictory theme in JBS argumentation:**

On the one hand, the JBS proposes that it is not capable of grievous error or noxious prejudiced beliefs, statements, and conclusions. Only JBS opponents are capable of such profound moral and intellectual deficiencies. But, on the other hand, one booklet published by ADL containing criticisms of the JBS might easily convince Birchers to believe and disseminate anti-semitic statements. In short, in the JBS scheme of things, racial or religious bigotry does not pre-exist within deeply flawed human beings; instead, it originates in, and is provoked by, the very people whom are the targets and victims of such bigotry. Thus---Jews (or other minorities) incite and are to blame for whatever bigotry manifests itself.

### **1967**

On 3/7/67, JBS Public Relations Director John Rousselot claimed that the the JBS had **“about 400 Negro members”**

### **1968**

The December 1968 issue of *the John Birch Society Bulletin* contains the text of a speech by Robert Welch entitled **“Looking Ahead”**. In his speech, Welch made the following observations re: the religious background of JBS membership. He also stated that these percentages also applied to **“our staff, our speakers, and our authors”**.

60% = Protestant

40% = Catholic

01% = Jewish

Welch also declared that: **“We have only a few hundred Negro members...”**

**An April 17, 1975 letter from a JBS member in Memphis TN to JBS HQ in Belmont MA lamented that:**

**“We sure could use some Negro anti-Communists here... 48% of Memphis’ population is Negro... HELP!”**

[*“John Birch Society Records”* Collection at Brown University’s John Hay Library Archives and Manuscripts, Call Number Ms.2013.003, box 26, folder 11].

### **1970**

A *JBS Bulletin* reported: **“We estimate that about forty percent of our total membership is Catholic. Many of our finest chapter leaders are Jewish. And we are proud of our small but growing number of Negro members who are working so hard...with us to show our fellow citizens, both white and colored, how the Negroes are being used today by the Communists to serve Communist purposes.”** [2/70 JBS Bulletin, pages 6-7 in section captioned *“What is the John Birch Society?”*].

### **1972**

JBS National Council member, Francis Fenton, stated during a 3/31/72 speech in Jackson MS that:

JBS had 100,000 members of whom **40% are Catholic**. He also reported that **“five of the 28 members of the Society’s controlling council are Catholics...”**

## **MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION RE: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY / ROBERT WELCH**

### **1956**

In 1956, Welch used a \$1000 contribution from Frank E. Masland (about \$9456 in 2020 dollars) along with \$4000 of Welch's own money (about \$34,825 in 2020 dollars) to launch Welch's magazine entitled ***One Man's Opinion (OMO)***. The first issue (Volume 1, #1) was dated February 1956.

Welch converted Masland's \$1000 into common share stock in Robert Welch, Inc., the publisher of OMO. Welch controlled 4000 shares of stock, i.e. 80% of shares. The intended audience was a small group of wealthy industrialists and business professionals. All articles in OMO were written by Welch and they were directed toward businessmen and thwarting communism through the free market.

### **1957**

In June 1957, Welch announced an Editorial Advisory Committee for ***One Man's Opinion*** which consisted of businessmen, retired senior military officers, and other prominent Americans. Many of these individuals would later become members of the John Birch Society. Among the members of the Advisory Committee were: John U. Barr, Lawrence Bunker, Robert Dresser, Clarence Manion, and J.B. Matthews.

The July/August 1957 issue of Robert Welch's magazine announced a new Advisory Board for Welch's magazine (see names below):

John U. Barr (New Orleans industrialist)  
K.G. Bentson (Union Rock and Minerals Corp)  
James L. Coker (President, Sonoco Products)  
Martin J. Condon III (Chairman, Conwood Corp)  
William J. Grede (Grede Foundries, Inc.)  
Clarence Manion (Dean, Notre Dame University Law School)  
Frank E. Masland (President, C.H. Masland and Sons)  
J. Howard Pew (President, Sun Oil Co.)  
Robert W. Stoddard (President, Wyman-Gordon Co. and owner of several Massachusetts newspapers and radio stations)  
Ernest W. Swigert (founder, Hyster Corp)  
Ludwig von Mises (Austrian School economist and historian)

Even before the JBS was proposed as a new organization (in December 1958), Welch held recruitment meetings advocating for a new organization.

### **1958**

In February 1958, OMO's name changed to ***American Opinion*** – and it included articles written by authors other than Robert Welch. The targeted audience also changed to include a wider audience of the general public. AO articles were more oriented toward fear of impending disaster, i.e. against a dark future and the need for a new organization to combat collectivist advances.

In December 1958, Welch invited 12 wealthy businessmen to join him in Indianapolis at the home of Miss Marguerite Dice to learn about the formation of the John Birch Society. Eleven accepted the invitation and **10** subsequently became founding members of the JBS.

### **1959**

During his 2-day top-level recruitment meetings, Robert Welch used data from the unpublished version of ***The Politician*** to generate interest in, and support for, the JBS from prominent, wealthy individuals which was not discussed with the general membership. Welch used the substantive content of ***The Politician*** to instruct prospective high level members of the JBS about "*the conspiracy*" they faced and he proposed the JBS as what was required to thwart that conspiracy. At one such top-level meeting in



1959, Harry Bradley, co-founder of Allen-Bradley and Fred Looch, President of the corporation, agreed to contribute \$25,000 to Welch (about \$236,400 in 2020 dollars). Harvey Peters (tax attorney for Allen-Bradley) joined Harry and Fred to commit to pay for the cost of putting the top-level recruitment content on film. They contributed more than \$35,000 (about \$330,966 in 2020 dollars). [5/18/59 Robert Welch letter to William J. Grede, in Grede papers at Wisconsin Historical Society].

### **1959**

Phyllis Schlafly and her husband (Fred) attended a JBS recruitment meeting in Chicago and then became members. In later years, Phyllis never was willing to acknowledge her membership---not even to her two biographers (Donald Critchlow and Carol Felsenthal). In the February 1960 issue of the JBS Bulletin, Robert Welch described Phyllis as “**a very loyal member of the John Birch Society**”. See 1964 entry for additional information concerning her resignation from the JBS.

### **1962**

A JBS Finance Committee was organized and headed by William J. Grede to seek financial support from the business community.

In a 09/28/62 letter to Samuel L. Blumenfeld, Robert Welch stated that: “**Our total sale of the *Blue Book* to date, at two dollars each, has been about two hundred thousand copies. Since it has cost us, in the format we use, about sixty-to-seventy cents per copy, we have a net profit of about one dollar per copy after allowing for shipping and handling.**”

### **1963**

One month after the release of the June 1963 *Report* on the JBS by the California Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities, Robert Welch published a July 15, 1963 reprint of the Report which contained an additional 14 pages of notes to correct what Welch considered some relatively minor errors or incorrect assertions in the Subcommittee Report. In his introductory remarks captioned “**About This Report**”, Welch declared that:

“**The following few pages of footnotes are not added in any spirit of quarreling with the Committee or of complaining about its Report. We think that Senator Hugh Burns, his fellow Committee members, and their staff all did a very praiseworthy job of objective investigation. As we think that they arrived at general conclusions about the Society which were basically sound and entirely fair.**”

### **1964**

According to a May 1964 memo from Thomas N. Hill to all JBS Major Coordinators and Coordinators of the JBS, in 1964 there were 213 American Opinion Libraries and 12 American Opinion Bookmobiles selling JBS publications and the JBS supplied them with over \$20,000 of merchandise each week (about \$189,123 in 2020 dollars).

### **1964**

**Phyllis Schlafly resigned her membership in the John Birch Society.**

In August, JBS founder/leader Robert Welch wrote a lengthy letter to the wife of JBS National Council member Thomas J. Anderson (Mrs. Carol Anderson) to address what Welch described as “**rumblings about your discontent over our discouragement of any massive exploitation of Phyllis Schlafly’s**

***A CHOICE NOT AN ECHO*** by the American Opinion Library in Nashville” during the 1964 Presidential campaign.

Welch then explained, in confidence, that the action he and the JBS took “**was specifically at the request of Phyllis Schlafly herself. Phyllis has been a good friend of mine for a long time**” and “**...I thought her book was excellent, and was going to be very helpful in the campaign. But she, and obviously some of the Goldwater higher-ups with whom she was in close association, were extremely fearful...that the usefulness and effectiveness of the book...could be nullified by the enemy if they could tie it in any way to The John Birch Society; and that any such development might actually damage rather than help the total Goldwater cause. Confidentially, Phyllis even resigned from the Society when she brought the book out, in order to avoid this possibility.**” [08/19/64 letter by Robert Welch to Mrs. Tom Anderson, 2220 Woodmond Blvd., Nashville TN, pages 2-3].

## **1964**

Robert Welch stated that the Birch Society “**made an outright purchase of half a million copies of J. Evetts Haley’s book, A TEXAN LOOKS AT LYNDON**” and the JBS was “**emphatically negotiating for the purchase of another half million copies, to follow right behind the first lot.**” [08/19/64 Robert Welch letter to Mrs. Carol Anderson, Nashville TN, page 2).

## **1965**

In an interview published by the *Chicago Daily News*, Welch stated that the JBS planned to spend between \$5 million to \$6 million that year. He also said the JBS had:

- 250 paid employees
- 5 Regional Offices and an East Coast (Belmont MA) and West Coast (San Marino CA) headquarters
- 360 bookstores (typically named American Opinion Libraries or Bookstores)
- 600 book titles offered in their American Opinion Bookstores Wholesale Catalog
- 4 publishing companies [Western Islands Publishing, Belmont Publishing Company, Robert Welch Inc., and American Opinion Libraries]
- \$11 million annual printing bill
- 40-page catalog of JBS-sponsored speakers (via American Opinion Speakers Bureau)

## **1982**

The JBS delivered petitions to Congress and to President Reagan and Vice President Bush containing 3 million signatures calling upon the United States to get out of the United Nations. Since 1975, the JBS claims to have sent Congress anti-UN petitions containing 11 million signatures

## **1983**

After suffering a stroke, Welch resigned as CEO of the JBS. He was 83 years old. He became Chairman Emeritus. Thomas N. Hill became JBS President and Cong. Lawrence McDonald became Chairman of the JBS. [UPI report, dated 3/14/83]

JBS Public Relations Director John F. McManus told the *Harvard University Crimson* that President Ronald Reagan was not a “**real conservative**”. He also is quoted as saying “**that the Society has very few Jewish or Black members**”

## **1986**

In annual financial report ("Form PC" to Division of Charities, Massachusetts Attorney General Office, the JBS reported \$3,803,246 in liabilities and \$63,647 in assets. In 1984, the JBS reported \$9.1 million in liabilities and \$784,516 in assets. It also reported \$2,601,250 in contributions and a 12/31/86 deficit of **\$7,759,854** and a 1/1/86 deficit of **\$9,353,503** [Also see financial report by JBS CPA firm, (John G. Sabbey, Acton MA).

## **1986**

In June, Charles R. Armour became President of the JBS.

## **1988**

In December, Charles R. Armour retired as CEO of the JBS, after 2 years as its leader. Previously, he had been the JBS District Governor for Western States.

## **1989**

In January, G. Allen Bubolz became CEO of the JBS. He served from 1989 to 1991.

In the March issue of the *JBS Bulletin*, the JBS announced that it was consolidating its Belmont MA and San Marino CA headquarters offices and moving them to Appleton WI in the summer. The newly consolidated office would have 27 paid staff and a \$1 million payroll.

## **1991**

G. Vance Smith became CEO of the JBS and he served until 2005. In 1972 Vance gave up his business career to work full time for the Society as a Field Coordinator. Later, he became the Society's National Director of Field Activities. In June 1991, Vance was named the Chief Executive Officer of JBS. John F. McManus served as President from 1991-2016. He formerly was National Public Relations Director for the Society.

## **2005**

Art Thompson and John F. McManus took over leadership of the JBS in 2005 after a bitter internal power struggle which replaced the previous CEO (G. Vance Smith). Some JBS members described the takeover as a coup and membership plummeted in the aftermath of the internal controversy. In October 2005, Vance, along with several other senior JBS officials such as Tom Gow, gave up their leadership positions. Vance then directed his efforts to Robert Welch University.

Much of the internal controversy regarding the change in JBS leadership was summarized on a now-defunct website by JBS member, Don Fotheringham which may be seen here:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20160304025421/http://donfoth.com/index.html>

## **2007**

In 2007, with the support of several former members of the JBS Executive Committee of the JBS National Council, Vance organized and became President of Freedom First Society.

## **2018**

Former JBS President (and JBS National Public Relations Director) John F. McManus authored ***“The John Birch Society: Its History Recounted By Someone Who Was There”***, [Wakefield, Massachusetts: Overview Productions, 2018, 472 pages]. However, much of McManus's *“history”* is fictional.

## **2020**

Bill Hahn succeeded Art Thompson as CEO of the John Birch Society. Thompson became a JBS National Council member. Hahn was previously the Public Relations Director of the JBS.

**JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL as of September 2020:** <https://jbs.org/about/national-council/>

## **INTERESTING HISTORICAL FACTOID**

The following JBS-related item appears in 2001 book by Christopher Andrew entitled: ***The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB***:

**"Like the CIA, the FBI was inevitably a major target of KGB active measures. Until the death of J. Edgar Hoover in 1972, many of these measures were personally directed against the Bureau's long-serving, aging and irascible Director. Service A employed three simple and sometimes crude techniques. The first was to portray Hoover as in league with extremists such as the ultra-right-wing John Birch Society, whose founder regarded even the former Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, as a '*dedicated conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy*'. Service A had acquired both some of the Society's stationery and samples of its leaders' signatures from its California headquarters to assist it in its forgeries. In November 1965 it fabricated a letter of good wishes from Hoover to the leader of the John Birch Society, reminding him that the FBI funds put at his disposal would enable the Society to open several more branches."** [Christopher Andrew and Vasili Mitrokhin, "*The Sword and the Shield: The Mitrokhin Archive and the Secret History of the KGB*", Basic Books, 2001, pages 234-235]

Footnote 72 on page 617 documents this assertion by identifying the ultimate source being: Notes from Mitrokhin Papers: volume 6, ch 14, part 1

Volume 6 = Contemporary manuscript notes in Russian copied from FCD files (First Main Directorate or First Chief Directorate of the Committee for State Security), 1972-1974

<https://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD%2FGBR%2F0014%2FMITN>

<https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/archives/collections/papers-vasiliy-mitrokhin-1922-2004/>

### **JBS INCOME**

**From annual JBS financial reports submitted to Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**

**1959 income (first year of operation) = \$129,844**

**1960 income = \$198,719**

**1961 income = \$595,000**

**1962 income = \$826,100**

**1963 income = \$1.6 million**

**1964 income = \$3.2 million**

**1965 income = \$4.0 million**

**1967 income = \$4.2 million**

## **JBS AMERICAN OPINION SPEAKERS BUREAU**

**American Opinion Speakers Bureau** (Brookfield MA) provided JBS-affiliated speakers to groups around the country. Douglas C. Morse was the General Manager of the Speakers Bureau and he was succeeded in 1965 by Michael D. McGagin. From May 1963 to October 22, 1965, Donald Mackey was the Western States Regional Manager in San Marino CA for the Speakers Bureau.

### **1965 Speakers Bureau included:**

Thomas J. Anderson, Julia C. Brown, G. Edward Griffin, A.G. Heinsohn Jr., Dr. George J. Hess, Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Lane, John N. Noble, Jose Norman, Philippa Schuyler, Dr. Hans Sennholz, W. Cleon Skousen, Willis E. Stone, Duane Thorin, Harold Lord Varney, Henry C. Wolfe

JBS National Public Relations Director, Reed Benson, sent a letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in **November 1967** which enclosed a copy of the Birch Society's "*American Opinion Speakers Bureau National Roster*" which consisted of the following persons:

Gary Allen, Tom Anderson, Austin J. App, Reed Benson, Hilaire DuBerrier, Samuel Blumenfeld, Julia Brown, Eric D. Butler, Richard F. Carter, Sheriff James G. Clark, Maj. Pedro Diaz Lanz, Francis E. Fenton, Susan Fitch, William Flax, Robert H. Goldsborough, Ruth Gordienko, G. Edward Griffin, Ferrell Griswold, A.G. Heinsohn Jr., Dr. George J. Hess, Lola Belle Holmes, Dr. Susan Huck, Ingeborg Jarski, Don E. Johnson, Hubert W. Kregeloh, Clarence Manion, Lt. Col. Gordon "Jack" Mohr, Jose Norman, John Rees, E. Merrill Root, John. Schmitz, George S. Schuyler, Hans F. Sennholz, W. Cleon Skousen, Alvin D. Smith, Alan Stang, Ethan Stangland, Scott Stanley Jr., Willis E. Stone, Duane Thorin, Harold Lord Varney, Dr. William E. Warner, Gen. Clyde J. Watts, Natalie E. White.

### **JBS speakers listed in 1971 included:**

Gary Allen, Tom Anderson, Reed Benson, Julia Brown, Dr. Stuart R. Crane, Alan Davidson, Hilaire DuBerrier, Medford Evans, Francis E. Fenton, Ken Granger, G. Edward Griffin, David E. Gumaer, Susan, L.M. Huck, Gerald W. Kirk, Charles Smith, Alan Stang, Scott Stanley, Dr. William Marra, Lt. Col Gordon (Jack) Mohr, George Schuyler, Gen. Robert L. Scott, Gen. Clyde Watts, E. Freeman Yearling

### **California JBS members who WON June 1964 GOP primary for their Congressional District:**

Chester C. Merriam aka Chet (Durham CA) – 2nd CD in northern California i.e. smallest northern countries e.g. Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa etc. (Merriam expelled from JBS 3/64)

35.4% of vote in 11/64 general election = 68,835

Robert George Muncaster (San Pedro CA) – 17th CD – Los Angeles

32.3% of vote in 11/64 general election = 45,688

James W. Williams Jr. (Porterville CA) – 18th CD – Kern, Kings and Tulare County

33.3% of vote in 11/64 general election = 60,523

### **RAN BUT DID NOT WIN**

John A. Richardson (Contra Costa County CA) – 14th CD